

----- ST REPORT ONLINE MAGAZINE -----
"The Original 16/32bit Online Magazine"

from
STR Publishing Inc.
"

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STReport Online Magazineâ €

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An International list of private BBS systems
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> 06/01/90: STReportâ € #6.22 The Original 16/32 bit Online Magazine!

- The Editor's Podium - CPU REPORT - GADGETS' MEGATALK
- ICD FIXES S-CHARGER - PORTFOLIO TEMPEST - ROSETTA-3D!
- FEAGANS GONE! - CASEWORKS ANGRY! - STR CONFIDENTIAL

---** TT MAIN ATTRACTION IN CANADA **---
-----** STE TO BE DELAYED! ***-----
-----** STACY BEGINS NEW ATARI ERA **-----

ST REPORT ONLINE MAGAZINEâ €
"Only UP-TO-DATE News and Information"
-* FEATURING *-

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the Atari ST computers through an excellent International ST Mail Network.

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> The Editor's Podiumâ €

'Tis summer time, and summer CES is in full swing, they say there are Lynxes and Portfolios all over the place... One browser was overheard saying, everywhere you look you can see a Lynx! Oh well, I am solidly resigned to the fact that my powerhouse computer system will always be regarded as being from "that game machine company". But so what?, It still is capable of much more than the majority of machines in place today.

Atari is stirring out of its apparent hibernation (at last) and soon will be marketing the STe in the States by August. Added to that the planned release of the Advantage package where the 520 ST will be bundled with a gaggle of software products and moved through the mass marketeers. These actions, coupled with the 'hoped for' advertising, are expected to revitalize the Atari computing market in the states. And of course, the TT is to make its debut in Canada this week. The preliminary reports filtering in are very exciting as far as the TT are concerned. We will have complete info on the TT as soon as its released.

Sometimes, not often, but sometimes Atari gets a "bad rap" this is one of those times, last week, a reader made mention of a boondoggle over some mega equipment that was loaned to a group of international musicians. The equipment in question came from a "loaner or show pool" Atari maintains just for such occasions. As is usual, when the loaner period is over, the recipient is given a choice of purchasing the equipment at an attractive price or returning it to Atari. It seems a dealer local and privy to the proceedings wished to purchase this gear. To make a long story short, the dealer wanted to place the stuff on "floor plan", in other words "charge it". In reality, most floor plans do not permit the financing of "used equipment". Atari was not at fault nor was the dealer, in fact there is no fault here just rules that protect the consumer.

Ralph.....

> CPU REPORTâ €

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Issue # 69

by Michael Arthur

Remember When....

In February 1978, Randy Seuss, and Ward Christensen (the creator of the MODEM, or XModem file transfer protocol) created the first computer bulletin board system (called CBBS), as a way for members of their local User Group to exchange information?

Or how, in August 1979, an "online conferencing" system known as Micronet was first started, which changed its name to CompuServe a year later?

CPU Systems Roundupâ € XXIX
=====

Networking, Commodore Support, and the Amiga 3000

When Commodore introduced the Amiga 3000, the AmigaVision hypertext system, and AmigaDOS 2.0 last month, it also introduced a series of new LAN networking products for the Amiga line. These peripherals were mainly developed in concert with other 3rd Party Amiga Developers, and Commodore's marketing of these products supplements its previous announcements concerning Amiga Unix.

When Commodore first announced Amiga Unix, many had expressed concerns that few serious Amiga networking products were available for Amiga Unix to utilize when it is eventually released. And as any serious Unix computer has networking products available for it, a lack of such products would be a serious deficiency. Commodore's new line of networking products are expected to answer the issue of Amiga Networking, and to preface the upcoming string of Network Peripherals expected to be announced with the 68030 TT's introduction. Here are excerpts from their announcement of Amiga Networking Peripherals:

COMMODORE ADDS EXTENSIVE NETWORKING CAPABILITIES
ANNOUNCES PLANS TO EXPAND GROWING AMIGA MARKETS

"Commodore Vice President of Marketing C. Lloyd Mahaffey said the announcements are a key component in Commodore's strategy to significantly penetrate the business, higher education and government markets. He said today's introduction marks the first time Commodore has marketed Amiga networking products. Shipping is expected to begin in June."

"Adding networking capabilities to the Amiga has been a priority since our team joined Commodore last spring," Mahaffey said. "We're convinced that this added capability will greatly enhance the appeal of the Amiga in an office or campus environment and increase our competitiveness in the U.S. market."

Networking products introduced include the following:

The A2065 -- Ethernet Network Adaptor

The A2065 Amiga Ethernet Network Adaptor runs at 10 megabits per second and provides full ANSI 802.3 type Ethernet protocols over both "thick" and "thin" Ethernet ports. This product gives the Amiga access to the widely used Ethernet networking standard. Cost: \$350.00.

The A2060 -- Arcnet Network Adaptor

The A2060 Arcnet Network Adaptor provides full Arcnet bus protocols over Arcnet bus topology networks. The 2.5 Mbps Arcnet Network Adaptor supports up to 256 nodes, and features a socket for optional autoboot ROMs. It also provides buffered memory to enhance inter-system communications. Cost: \$230.00

The AS220 -- Amiga Client for Novell NetWare

"With Commodore's introduction of the Amiga Client for NetWare, the Amiga now has the capability of utilizing Commodore's A2060 adaptor to communicate with Novell Networks running Novell NetWare Version 2.15 or higher. The software features password security and provides the user with two interfaces: a text-oriented interface or the Amiga mouse-based interface. Users can utilize the Amiga's multitasking feature to simultaneously run other programs under AmigaDOS and/or the MS-DOS with Amiga Bridgeboard (TM) options." Cost: \$150.00

TCP/IP and NFS Software:

"TCP/IP and NFS software provide the Amiga with connectivity to DoD (Department of Defense) and other networks which support either of these standard packet-switching protocols. This new software for the Amiga will provide users with access to the widely installed far-reaching communications networks employing the TCP/IP standard." Cost: \$200.00 Several Amiga Developers support this software, including GfxBase (maker of a version of X/Windows for the Amiga), Syndesis Corp., (producer of TSSNet, a version of DECNet (Digital Network Architecture) for the Amiga) and Hydra Systems (maker of a peer-to-peer network for the Amiga)....

CPU MacNewsâ €

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University Identifies New Mac Virus, "Garfield"

Recently, Cornell University discovered that Macs on its campus were infected by a new virus for the Macintosh. Called "Garfield" (for the name the virus gives itself in its menu definition), the virus infects a system by adding its own resource file to that of other software programs and System Software files, and renumbering the computer's system menu definition. As an MDEF Virus, its main symptoms include unresponsive Mac menus (which refuse to pop up when clicked on), and it spreads through both loading disks in, and launching Mac applications. As such, investigators say the virus itself is relatively harmless...

The Symantec Antivirus for the Macintosh (SAM) 2.0 utility is currently capable of detecting and eradicating this virus, while updates of Disinfectant, VirusDetective, and Virex (three other Mac anti-virus utilities) will soon become available which can also handle the "Garfield" virus. Luckily, it seems that the virus has not spread beyond the Cornell Campus....

But ponder, if you will, this question:

- 1) Atari intends to sell 520 STEs through the mass market (Sears, etc.) via a package called the Atari Advantage. Given that the only way to sell products through such a market is through heavy advertising, will the Atari Advantage bring good news to the ST market? If it ever finds its way to the US market??
- 2) Will the little dealers be able to compete with the mass marketers in this area as Atari has stated they will make the Advantage available to both the mass market and the dealers?

> COPYRIGHT! STR Spotlightâ € STReport "chopped up" by college student
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THEY SHOULD KNOW BETTER
=====

by R.F. Mariano

Copyright violations of all types are, for practical purposes, an integral part of the computing community. Oddly enough, the most serious offenders frequently appear to be those who do or, at least should, know better than to perpetrate such non-sense. From outright theft of software to the brazen copyright infractions recently brought to our attention, it would appear that people have little or no respect for the rights of others regardless of the damage or harm they cause.

STReport finds its issues are, at this time, being sent through USENET by Greg Lindahl, who apparently is under the misguided impression that he has been granted some sort of editorial powers beyond the bounds of the copyright notice contained in each of our issues. It seems this young man, by his own messages, openly admits having edited and/or deleted various items from STReport.

A number of well meaning individuals who frequent Usenet have brought this serious matter to our attention. They have clearly stated that this is an ongoing situation and have provided STReport with sufficient materials to substantiate their allegations. Further on, we present an excerpt from the materials.

STReport formally requests of Mr. Lindahl; Please discontinue your editorial activities immediately. Additionally, to all parties concerned, STReport Online Magazine may be retransmitted in any form provided each issue transmitted is complete and complies fully with the copyright notice posted in each issue.

Portal-Rmail-To: ordania-dm@cup.portal.com
Received: by portal.portal.com (1.14)
id AA10408; Wed, 23 May 90 06:31:09 PDT
Received: from Sun.COM (sun-barr) by sun.Sun.COM (4.1/SMI-4.1)
id AA22104; Wed, 23 May 90 03:23:05 PDT
Received: from uvaarpa.virginia.edu by Sun.COM (4.1/SMI-4.1)
id AA11213; Wed, 23 May 90 03:22:53 PDT
Message-Id: <9005231022.AA11213@Sun.COM>
Received: from virginia.acc.Virginia.EDU by uvaarpa.virginia.edu id aal5178;
23 May 90 3:16 EDT
Received: from virginia.edu by virginia.edu id aa27894; 23 May 90 3:07 EDT
Received: fromessel.acc.Virginia.EDU by virginia.edu id aa27869;
23 May 90 3:01 EDT
Date: Wed May 23 03:01:30 1990
From: Greg Lindahl <gl8f@essel.acc.virginia.edu>
Reply-To: gl8f@essel.acc.virginia.edu
To: streport@virginia.edu
Subject: STR # 419

[This copy of ST Report was edited by me. Each issue I remove the 2 commercial advertisements (one for compuserve or genie, the other for the editor's hard-drive business), CPU Report if it has nothing to do with the ST (I left it in once last year), and any "article" composed of 100% flamage. I sometimes also remove duplicated articles, trim down press releases, and edit other material.

If you would like to unsubscribe, send mail to streport request @ virgina.edu. Never, ever, send mail to streport@virginia.edu unless you want it to go to everyone on the list. If streport-request should bounce a message, it means that my mailbox has gone over 1 meg, or I have a hardware problem, or you mistyped the name. Do not freakout, just remail it later.

-- greg]

THE TICKERTAPE
=====

by Michael Arthur

Concept by Glenn Gorman

The price of Atari Stock stayed the same on Monday and Tuesday. On Wednesday, Atari Stock went down 1/8 of a point, but recovered by going up 1/8 of a point on Thursday. On Friday, its price shot up by 5/8 of a point. Finishing up the week at 5 5/8 points, the price of Atari Stock is up 5/8 of a point since the last report.

Apple Stock was up 1/4 points from Friday, May 19, 1990.

Commodore Stock was down 1/4 of a point from 5/19/90.

IBM Stock was up 7/8 points from 5/19/90.

Stock Report for Week of 5/21/90 to 5/25/90

STock Reprt	Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday	
	Last	Chg.	Last	Chg.	Last	Chg.	Last	Chg.	Last	Chg.
Atari	5	----	5	----	4 7/8	- 1/8	5	+ 1/8	5 5/8	+ 5/8
									169,800	Sls
CBM	7 1/2	----	7 1/2	----	7 1/2	----	7 3/8	- 1/8	7 3/8	----
									135,700	Sls
Apple	39 1/2	-1/4	40 3/8		42	+ 5/8	42	----	40	- 2
				+1 7/8					2,886,800	Sls
IBM	117	+1 5/8	117 3/4	+3/4	118 3/4	+ 1	118 3/4	----	116 1/4	-2 1/2
									1,148,700	Sls

'Sls' refers to the # of stock shares that were traded that day.

'CBM' refers to Commodore Corporation.

'-----' means that the stock's price did not change for the day.

> PGH SPEAKS UP! STR FOCUSâ € ATARI ELITE presents its side....

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STReport MailBag

A letter from J. Karlovich

05/29/90

Greetings to all:

Until this time THE ATARI ELITE has sat back and not said a word, we have listened and read ALL of the posts that have been printed about the Pittsburgh situation. Bear with me for awhile and you will begin to see the TRUTH unfold.

There has been some false allegations being spread about The Atari Elite Organization that needs clarification, let me introduce myself. My name is John N. Karlovich and I am one of the founding members of THE ATARI ELITE and was a past president of PACE (Pittsburgh Atari Computer Enthusiasts) I resigned from that position officially in November 1985. Myself and five other 520ST users started ** The ATARI ELITE ** an ST only organization.

I gave the board of directors of PACE a 6 month notice of my resignation and explanation which was necessary. The secretary had NEVER taken the minutes of the meetings. The disk librarian would NOT report on how many disks were being bought or sold. And many, many other oddities that I will not bring up...(Leave the skeletons in the closets)

The allegations that I left PACE....to be split up, is totally ridiculous. The TRUTH is; BEFORE I left I made sure it was listed as a non-profit organization. The club had grown in size so much that the income we were making was quite large. If the IRS were to inquire about our income I am quite sure they would have gone to the president and the rest of the officers with many questions. Our records at that time were practically non-existent. We managed to reconstruct the previous three years and obtain the non-profit status. I instructed the board members if these conditions were not corrected in 6 months I would resign and get up in front of the membership and explain WHY.. this I did. (This is public knowledge and I only mention this as background for NEW members and the Atarians not in the Pittsburgh area.)

I was to leave in October but stayed on one more month and we had an ATARI EXTRAVAGANZA. Neil Harris was coming to town and I did not want to air our dirty laundry to anyone. We passed out shirts, Frisbees, duffel bags and backpacks with the ATARI LOGO (I went out with a bang so to speak) I am sorry that there were and still are HARD feelings because of my resignation, but I guess there will exist personality conflicts. My energies were dedicated to the betterment of the club, and the promotion of Atari in the Pittsburgh area and they still are. At that time, not only myself but the VICE PRESIDENT and the TREASURER resigned the same time.

The ATARI ELITE was formed out of a void that existed. As time went on more Atari People wanted to join an ST only group (That is the only machine we cater to. I am happy to say for the ST user the 8_bit is dead). We also took extra caution to assure that our meetings were on a night that would not conflict with the PACE meetings.

In the past THE ATARI ELITE has tried to work with PACE, we have tried to put our differences behind us to no avail. Instead of welcoming competition, they are afraid of it. We believe that organizations should

work together for the betterment of Atari and not to another's demise. As an example, PACE has had other Atari Products Shows. All of the other user groups were invited to attend BUT the ATARI ELITE was not permitted to have a space even though we have offered to pay vendors price for the booth. The reasoning given to us was that we were in the same county as they are and would be in competition for the same members. This to me sounds terrible. Apparently PACE felt that we were (are) that much better. Even if they feel that way, we should have been allowed to attend because the ATARI ELITE is promoting the ST. The phrase was that we were "STEALING" their members. Come on now, when was the last time somebody "STOLE" you? THE ATARI ELITE operates under the philosophy of Lee Iacocca "if you can find a better deal, BUY IT." The ELITE says, "If you can find a better group then JOIN IT."

Lets get to the infrastructure of the matter. The question could be raised as to why we do not have our own show. The answer is that Pace has an ANNUAL SHOW and we don't want to repeat the same thing. We felt that this was something that they did well. Judging the effects of their 1990 show, it appears that they have lost their ability to do the one thing that we felt they were good at. Now they have blown it for the Pittsburgh area. They have single-handedly destroyed the reputation of Pittsburgh in the eyes of the Atari community and tried to place the blame elsewhere instead of admitting the REAL REASONS. (This has been brought out in ST REPORT).

One major reason the show was a flop was that THE ATARI ELITE did NOT participate at all, we were not invited as a group and most of our members would not go (The ones that did go spent plenty of bucks and we have a committee set up to tally the amount which will be reported at a later date with receipts to prove it).

Another untruth that has THE ATARI ELITE fired up is the belief that we are a bunch of PIRATES. This outrageous lie that was generated by a few people at PACE, has branded THE ATARI ELITE as pirates in the Atari community. Many allegations have been spread over the networks but NO PROOF has or will be found. This was started I believe because PACE is a dying club and they are trying every thing possible to discredit THE ATARI ELITE in futile hopes that the ST members will leave and join the other side. One other fact to mention is MANY members belong to both clubs? This also is untrue, approximately a half a dozen ELITE members belong to PACE and they have said they will NOT renew their memberships with PACE because of their childlike antics.

We believe that, UNLIKE PACE, we have taken an AGGRESSIVE stance against piracy. We have actually bussed our members to shows where they have purchased thousands of dollars of soft/hardware. (Video tapes are available to prove this.) We are planning on attending the D.C.show, this invitation is and has been open to ALL the user groups in the area. We will provide the transportation and tickets for this function at a reasonable cost. Another point I would like to mention is most of our members have the newest in software and hardware because of our aggressive support with the vendors. One example is our group purchased at least 18 copies of the Universal Item Selector, (again we have the documentation to prove this).

No one has mentioned the GOOD things THE ATARI ELITE is doing such as taking 14 systems to a Real Estate and Financial Investors meeting next month to show the "Power Without the Price", I do not want to blow our horn but this also needed to be told.

I am disheartened that the developers and vendors have been fed the WRONG impression of the ATARI ELITE because of some misinformed individuals. I challenge ALL the vendors and developers to go through your records and check to see how many people in the Pittsburgh area have purchased your products. Please, contact the users and ASK them how they found out about it. My bet is they heard and saw it at one of THE ATARI ELITE meetings.

Only TIME will tell the TRUTH.....

The information that I have provided you with is to END this pointless "in-fighting." We are one city, and one user base with one computer. This fighting serves NO ONE! We feel we have a lot to offer the Atari community. The only ones to suffer in the end is the users. NO good can come out of strife..... We at THE ATARI ELITE are not in competition for anything. We march to the beat of our own drum, we are not followers but leaders. Our purpose is to acquaint, teach, and inform the community of the home and business computer. To foster a positive attitude in the general population regarding computers and to demonstrate the potential importance of computers to those seeking such information.

Information booths have been set up in shopping malls and other locations to inform the public of the existence of such an organization where one can learn.

Available to the public is a 24 hour phone line for use concerning any computer related problems or questions.

A monthly meeting is held for its members to attend to view and learn about the newest products available. Technical help is also provided at these meetings for those having problems with any aspect of their computer use.

A 24 hour Bulletin Board System, or BBS, is provided to the public and to the general membership. This system is a source of information and a 'meeting place' of hundreds of computer users in the Pittsburgh area, and with the advent of special processing features, the BBS is online with several hundred other BBS's across the country and around the world allowing a member or user to contact thousands of other users.

Included in membership is a bi-monthly electronic newsletter provided on magnetic media (one of the first on disk). This newsletter provides the reader with literally hundreds of computer related articles and editorials plus new public domain software or shareware for the reader's use.

The overall goal of this organization is to educate the novice computer user and educated user alike.

We feel the public is smart enough to join a group that will benefit them the most for their membership dues. If they choose, an individual can join 10 groups. We at the Elite maintain that the more you know about your computer the more fun you can have, and the better we ALL will be. The user will go to the group(s) where they can obtain the most up to date information from, that have the best speakers, most up to-date technology and the Atari atmosphere throughout. This is what The ATARI ELITE is all about.

If anyone has been offended by this message, please accept my apology

as this was not the intent of this letter. The image of THE ATARI ELITE has been damaged and some will never change their minds by trying to really search out the FACTS. We will continue to work very hard to bring out ALL of the TRUTH. For you Atarians that want to learn more about your machine, we meet the first Monday of each month at the Greentree Marriott....

*** THE ATARI ELITE ***
P.O. BOX 18293
PITTSBURGH, PA 15236

If you need more information drop us a line..... For all that like to use their modems call our BBS.....

AUTOBOSS/ATARI ELITE
P.O. BOX 281
BUNOLA, PA. 15020
(412) 384-5609
(412) 653-7540

> ROSETTA-3D STR Tech Notesâ ¢ a powerful animation preview tool
=====

June 1, 1990

Rosetta-3D
Version 1.0 Product Specifications
Copyright 1990 David Ramsden

Phase-4, Rosetta-3D, Chronos, PRISM, and PRISM-AGE
are trademarks of Lexicor Software, Incorporated.

THE HISTORY BEHIND THE NAME

ROSETTA, roh ZET uh, STONE gave the world the key to the long-forgotten language of ancient Egypt. In 1799, a French officer of Napoleon's engineering corps found the stone, half buried in the mud near the Rosetta mouth of the Nile River. On the stone is carved a decree of Ptolomy V Epiphanes, king of Egypt from 203 to 181 B.C. The first inscription is in ancient Egyptian heiroglyphics. The second is in Demotic, the popular language of Egypt at the time. And at the bottom of the stone the same message is written again in Greek.

The stone is made of black basalt, 11 inches thick and it is about 3 feet 9 inches high and 2 feet 4 inches across. Part of the top and a

section on the right side of the Rosetta Stone are missing.

The language of ancient Egypt had been a riddle to scholars for many hundreds of years. The Rosetta Stone solved the riddle. By translating the Greek portion of the stone and using this text as a guide, a French scholar named Jean Francios Champollion was able to learn the meaning of various Egyptian hieroglyphic characters. After much work, Champollion was able read the entire text, and in 1822, he published a pamphlet containing the results of his work. This pamphlet now enabled scholars to read the literature of ancient Egypt.

- The World Book Encyclopedia

THE "ROSETTA STONE" OF 3D ANIMATION

Just as the original Rosetta Stone allowed scholars to decypher the secret of Egyptian hieroglyphics and translate them into other languages, Rosetta-3D allows you to translate a wide variety of the most popular CAD, animation, and rendering formats into any of more than a half-dozen formats supported. Files created by Rosetta-3D can then be transported to many different computer systems and modeling packages or sent to remote rendering services capable of creating photorealistic quality images for commercial use. You are no longer confined to the limits of one machine or your current animation software.

Rosetta-3D is much more than just a file translator-- it is also a powerful animation preview tool. While it is not intended to be a professional-level modeler or rendering package, it does allow you to quickly create and preview animations with objects from any format that you select using the fastest wireframe and solid-polygon renderer available for the Atari ST. Rosetta-3D's simple point-and-click animation system featuring a unique three-dimensional 'object marker' now enables you to design animation storyboards for waiting clients in a matter of seconds rather than minutes or hours.

ROSETTA-3D VERSION 1.0 PRODUCT FEATURES

>> Hardware Requirements:

- o Atari ST with at least 512K RAM
- o Color Monitor
- o One Single-Sided 360K Disk Drive
- o Optional Hardware Supported
 - JRI ST4096C Color Board
 - Enhanced Atari STe 4096 color palette
 - Image Systems' ISAC Board (1024*768 or 800*600)

>> Animation Capabilities:

- o Display Modes
 - Amazingly fast depth-cue point cloud mode!
 - . dynamic motion preview
 - . used for real-time playback of extremely large objects
 - . create new and unique animations using "Point Clouds"
 - High-speed wireframe and depth-cue wireframe modes
 - . 2-4 times faster than CAD-3D's (v2.0) "high-speed" wireframe

- Several "real-time" solid-polygon display modes
 - . uses a revolutionary new polygon drawing algorithm
 - . transforms and displays objects with 15,000 faces in 5 seconds
- o Object Limitations
 - Any combination of 65,535 vertices and faces per object
 - Total number and size of objects limited only by memory
 - Animate objects with over 15,000 vertices and 30,000 faces on a 1MB system
 - Rosetta-3D's universe extends for over 32,000 "coordinates" in all directions. Nearly 400 times larger than CAD-3D's universe
- o Object Marker
 - Use Rosetta-3D's "3D cursor" to grab objects and move, zoom, rotate them in any direction to quickly create animations
- o Recording
 - VCR mode for "real-time" recording of animations
 - Stop-frame mode for manual frame-by-frame recording

>> File Translation:

- o Translate objects which are too large to animate on your system
 - The size of a file to be translated is limited only by the capacity of your data storage devices, not by memory
 - o Translate entire folders of supported formats using wildcards
 - o Import individual objects from within a file
 - o Direct translation from one format to another (bypassing the Rosetta-3D animation system) to provide minimum resolution loss of geometric data between different formats
 - o Eight Three-Dimensional Modeling/Rendering Formats Supported
 - o Import and/or Export:
 - AutoCAD Release 10 ASCII (DXF) and Binary (DXB) for the IBM and Macintosh
 - CAD-3D Version 1.0 (3D) and Version 2.0 (3D2)
 - Phase-4 Animation Libraries
 - Sculpt-3D for the Macintosh and Amiga
 - Swivel-3D for the Macintosh
- ... and output of Pixar's RenderMan RIB files!

>> Disk Management:

- o File Management
 - Copy, move, and delete files and supported file formats
 - Individual files and wildcards allowed
 - Easy to use menus displaying each file as it is processed
- o Folder Management
 - Quickly create and delete folders to store translated files
- o Disk and File Information
 - View the size, date, and time of creation of unknown file types and free space remaining on the selected drive
 - Display detailed information about any of the modeling or rendering formats supported including:
 - . a detailed description of the file type
 - . the name, vertice and face count, and other attributes for each object within the file
 - . a summary of vertice and face data for the entire file

>> Special Features:

- o ISAC Board high-resolution rendering (1024*768)
- o Phase-4 Application Data Exchange ProTocol (ADEPT)

- This feature allows Phase-4 products to:
 - . Share common resources such as memory, bitmapped images, and three-dimensional object data
 - . Utilize features in other Phase-4 products and control desk accessories running in the background
 - . Communicate via serial and MIDI connections and provide limited parallel processing between applications running on separate machines
 - . Communicate with Phase-4 products available for other home computers

>> Future Features

- o Atari TT/68030 Version (supporting new graphics modes)
- o Math Coprocessor Support
- o Monochrome Monitor Support
- o Parsec Graphics 4768 System (including 8768 upgrade)
 - Special 50MHz TI34010 version running at 6.25 MIPS with the standard 8MHz 68000 running in parallel

UPCOMING PRODUCTS FROM LEXICOR SOFTWARE

- o CHRONOS Keyframe Animation Studio
- o PRISM (Photorealistic Rendering Interpreter for Solid Models) Professional Rendering Package
- o PRISM-AGE (Advanced Graphics Environment)

On CompuServe, send Easyplex mail regarding these Phase-4 products to:

David Ramsden [76703,4224]

> QUICKST 2.1 STR Tech Notesâ € "...the latest upgrade to the Quick ST.."

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Quick ST 2.1 and Quick ST 2.1G

=====

By Darek Mihocka.

Release date: May 25, 1990.

Branch Always Software

Box 2624, Station B \
Kitchener, Ontario - new address this summer!
Canada N2H 6N2 /

Compuserve: 73657,2714
GENie: DAREKM

Quick ST 2.1 is the latest upgrade to the Quick ST II screen accelerator. The utility has only one purpose in life, and that is to make your ST run as fast as possible without requiring any hardware modifications. This is done by replacing those parts of TOS that draw text and graphics to the screen with machine language code that is many times faster. The result is that most text and GEM based programs run noticeably faster. Some screen drawing functions are made so efficient with Quick ST, that they are even faster than on a hardware accelerated ST, or even a TT!

So after investing \$1000 or more in your ST system doesn't it make sense to invest another \$20 to exploit the full power of the 68000 chip?

Features -----

Quick ST 2.1 is functionally identical to Quick ST 2.0, providing such features as:

- acceleration of GEM text, window updates, zoom boxes, rectangle fills,
and other VDI functions of GEM
- acceleration of VT52 text output and scrolling
- support of custom desktop backgrounds and fonts
- built-in Moniterm and Overscan support

It is fully compatible with the Desktop Customizer program (that comes bundled with Quick ST 2.0) for editing the desktop background.

Quick ST 2.0 has received some great reviews and praise after less than 3 months on the market. Just read through any recent ST magazine. But Quick ST 2.0 had room for improvement, and so Quick ST 2.1 was developed.

One of the things that was totally rewritten in Quick ST 2.1 was GEM text support. This is the type of text that appears in desktop windows, menu bars, dialog boxes, file selectors, and almost any other GEM objects. This text is drawn using a function in GEM called "v_gtext". Just about every GEM based application uses v_gtext, usually a lot. Word processors, spreadsheets, custom file selectors, terminal programs, editors, are just some GEM applications that use v_gtext.

v_gtext draws not only the standard desktop font, but also the small 6x6 font, and GDOS fonts. (Contrary to popular belief, it is not GDOS itself that draws GDOS fonts to the screen). Unfortunately, Quick ST 2.0 and all earlier versions only supported the desktop font and no other. Therefore, Quick ST 2.0 was not very effective with programs that used other sizes of fonts. Our users complained about that, so..... (guess what folks!)

Here are new features of Quick ST 2.1:

- faster GEM text support, including 6x6 font, system font, and GDOS

fonts. All calls to v_gtext are now significantly faster. Programs that use GDOS fonts, such as Microsoft Write or Word Flair, will have much faster screen updates. Fonts such as 10 point Dutch or Swiss are drawn up to 5 times faster, so GDOS based word processors will now run as fast as non-GDOS based word processors such as First Word or Word Writer. But those weren't forgotten either. Drawing of the standard font was also sped up, so that non-GDOS based applications like First Word or Word Writer will also run quite a bit faster than with Quick ST 2.0, even if your machine already has a blitter chip. The 6x6 font support is now many times faster, so programs like Universal Item Selector III or C-Breeze, which use the 6x6 font, will now have much faster screen updates.

- fast text attributes, such as bold, italic, outline, etc. Not all software draws plain text. A lot of word processors support text effects, and GEM usually chokes on these. Quick ST 2.1 makes bold, underlined, and italic text almost as fast as plain text. Without Quick ST 2.1, GEM becomes 2 or 3 times slower when doing text effects.
- faster VT52 text (Bconout and Cconws functions). These are the plain and simple text routines used by .TOS and .TTP programs.
- faster overall performance, including a smaller speed drop when using other AUTO folder programs and desk accessories. So pile up those custom file selectors and RAM disks and mouse accelerators, because the performance of Quick ST 2.1 will not be affected as much.
- faster low resolution GEM support.
- improved use of the blitter chip. On the Mega ST and STe, GEM text and rectangles will be drawn up to twice as fast, on top of the already fast speed of Quick ST 2.1.

Some minor bugs from version 2.0 are also fixed:

- the Hotwire 2.0 menu was not being redrawn properly
- crossed out objects in resource files were missing the white 'X'
- Pagestream displayed phantom characters on screen when printing

Quick ST 2.1 is still compatible with other AUTO folder programs that install custom desktop backgrounds. By default, Quick ST 2.1 now uses the normal desktop background, which can be changed with the Desktop Customizer.

Quick ST 2.0 came configured with a tiled desktop pattern, and this blew away many people's minds, which is why we've gone back to the normal desktop.

Memory requirements

All these new features cannot be put in without increasing the memory requirements of Quick ST. While Quick ST 2.0 required only 20K of RAM in either color or monochrome, Quick ST 2.1 requires 24K.

That is why a special version of Quick ST was created called Quick ST

2.1G.

The G means that it is primarily meant to speed up GDOS and GEM, and not VT52 text. The G version is also a "no frills" version, not having support for the Moniterm or custom backgrounds. As a result, it requires only 16K of RAM. 2.1G still runs faster than Quick ST 2.0 and uses less memory.

Availability

So how does one get a hold of Quick ST 2.1 or 2.1G? Easy. If you already own Quick ST 2.0, call Compuserve or GENie and download the patch program for updating your Quick ST 2.0 disk to a Quick ST 2.1 disk. The files that are up in the Atari ST download libraries of Compuserve and GENie are as follows:

on Compuserve:

QST21.ARC - this file

QST21U.ARC - patch program to convert Quick ST 2.0 to 2.1/2.1G

on GENie:

QST21NEW.ARC - this file

QST21UPD.ARC - patch program to convert Quick ST 2.0 to 2.1/2.1G

In addition to these two files, other files containing various benchmark results of Quick ST 2.1 will be posted. The benchmark results were compiled by several beta testers who tested it with all sorts of hardware configurations and application programs, and some of the results are shocking! Standard Quick Index results are also included.

If you do not have access to Compuserve or GENie, these patch programs will become available on bulletin boards and will also appear on some magazine disks (such as Atari Interface Magazine's disk of the month).

If you do not yet own Quick ST 2.0, it is available for \$19.95 or less from almost all Atari ST dealers in the United States. If your dealer does not have it or is sold out, there are a number of mail order dealers that advertize in magazines such as START or ST Informer who do carry Quick ST 2.0. Usually they also have toll free 1-800 order lines and can have the product to you in a few days. Then simply download the patch programs. Flipping through the latest Current Notes, I see one dealer carrying Quick ST 2.0 for \$14.

If you live in Canada, Quick ST 2.0 is available at dealers everywhere, for about \$22.95 or less. The first shipments of Quick ST 2.1 have started going out to dealers in Canada and the U.S. The new packages are clearly labeled with "2.1" on the front and back.

Whether you buy 2.0 and patch it to 2.1, or if you wait until you can buy Quick ST 2.1, you will get the exact same files, so don't wait!

As always, I will continue my never ending visits of Atari user groups. This Monday, May 28, 1990, I will be at one of my favorite user groups, the Toronto Atari Federation (the guys that put on that amazing show last month) and Quick ST 2.1 will be on sale at Users Convention prices!

We're moving!

Summer is approaching, and that means vacation time. It also means moving time. Please do not attempt to place orders directly with Branch Always Software during the month of July, because Branch Always Software is moving. A new business address and telephone number will be posted as soon as it is available. The old mailing address will be valid until October, when the lease on the current post office box expires, and mail will be forwarded to the new address.

More updates

Except in the case of someone discovering a really bad problem with Quick ST 2.1, there will be no updates of Quick ST during the summer. Some of the features that will be worked on in that time will be things like 68020/68030 support (for TT compatibility and compatibility with any 68030 accelerator boards that may appear), improved low resolution speed (which is not quite up to par with the medium resolution speed), and making Quick ST faster overall. That's right. Quick ST can still be made to run a lot faster if it were to use more memory. We have tried to limit the size of Quick ST to below 25K, but many users have indicated that they would be willing to give up another 20K or 50K or even 100K of memory to get the maximum possible speed out of Quick ST. With the price of RAM dropping and more and more people upgrading their ST to 2 meg or 4 meg, this is now something that is being seriously considered.

When such updates are available, they will be announced on Compuserve and GENie. We invite GENie users to drop by the Quick ST II topic in Category 2 Topic 13, and give us your comments or questions about Quick ST.

Branch Always Software will have a booth at this year's WAACE show, and it would not be all too surprising if the next Quick ST update was released at the show. See you all in October!

Price: \$19.95 US, \$22.95 Cnd, some dealers may sell for less.
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///Turbo Board Update
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May 29, 1990

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Sayin' it like it is.....

- Dusseldorf, Germany

ATARI GERMANY TO STAGE NEW 'BIG' SHOW

Following the successful Atari-Fair of 1989, (35,000+ visitors), Atari Germany will hold its next Atari-Fair from August 24 - 26, 1990. Unlike last year's 12,000 square meters, this year's show is expected to encompass over 18,000 square meters). In 1989, the world's biggest Atari-only show featured the products of 155 exhibitors, workshops, and two users' forums. This year, Atari is expecting at least 200 exhibitors to actively participate.

- New York City, NY

PORTFOLIO HEADED FOR STORMY SEAS

DIP has recruited John Feagans, formally of Atari Corp., as their USA representative. Feagans left Atari quietly at the same time the WOA show in Anaheim occurred. According to the latest reports there is a dispute brewing over certain products being made available for the Portfolio here in the states, one of which is the memory expander, while being made readily available in Europe, "it will be a long time coming" as far as the states are concerned, it was reported. Apparently, there are plans in the works to market the Portfolio under the DIP banner as opposed to Atari who has been buying the unit from DIP since its introduction.

- Las Vegas, NV

ATARI ANGERS FOLIO CARRYING CASE DEVELOPER

As most folks who own a Portfolio know, Caseworks, a USA firm, manufactures two styles of carrying cases for the Portfolio. One is a handsome and rugged Nylon case (24.95), while the alternative is a hand tooled, 100% leather case (49.95) manufactured from the finest quality of leather materials available. Atari includes literature about their cases in each Portfolio shipped. Now enters "the wicked witch of the north" showing the good folks at Caseworks a cheap (\$6.00 wholesale) leatherette like case requesting that they duplicate the price structure or else. The "or else" is the reason we picked up on this story, here we have a USA company supporting the Portfolio market, only to have the future clouded by some "bimbo" wanting to gouge the biggest buck from the Portfolio

marketplace making ridiculous demands on a developer supporting them. Caseworks was told that if they don't comply, then the imported mexican case will be promoted in the literature bundled with the Portfolio. Another excellent example of full, developer support. Not too hard to believe when one looks at their overall performance over the past three years.

- Rockford, IL.

ICD FIX FOR SUPERCHARGER BOOTUP

In response to some recent compatibility issues, ICD is offering a new hardware and software upgrade kit to our Advantage Plus ST and Advantage ST SCSI Host Adapters.

This includes a DSDD diskette with our latest software, a new GAL 16V8 IC, and a new daughterboard. The daughterboard will plug into the socket for the U3 IC on either host adapter. The new GAL IC will replace U4 on the Advantage Plus ST or U7 on the Advantage ST.

This complete package is available for \$15 cash, check, or money order (payable in US \$ drawn on a US bank) in the US and CANADA and \$20 for all other countries. It is easily installed since most boards were shipped with socketed GALs. If your Advantage host adapter does not have sockets, it is strongly recommended that you return it for replacement.

This package is required to be fully functional with the Supercharger PC emulator from Talon.

Only the daughterboard is needed to fix a problem which sometimes resets the Advantage Plus ST clock giving incorrect times and dates when powering on and off certain 520ST computers.

The daughterboard is available alone at no cost to "registered" Advantage Plus ST owners with clock problems. The GAL IC is only available as part of the upgrade package.

If you have an older ICD ST Host Adapter (STHA), the software alone will allow the Supercharger to work properly. It is available on a DSDD diskette for just \$10.

Send your name, address, and payment to:

ICD Advantage ST Upgrade Offer
1220 Rock Street
Rockford, IL 61101

Please allow 2-4 weeks for shipping and handling.
We cannot accept telephone orders, charge cards,
or
CODs for this offer.

- Santa Clara, CA.

IVAN and ATARI TO WOO EACH OTHER

It is expected that the new lines of trade will open when leaders of high-tech Soviet agencies and U.S. electronics companies meet next week for face-to-face discussions. "It's a marketing tool to allow us to penetrate a new market," David Harris, who heads Atari Corp's international division said referring to a potential deal between the company and the Soviets that the two sides will discuss at the meeting.

U.S. companies scheduled to attend the meetings include semiconductor makers Intel Corp and Advanced Micro Devices Inc, Unisys Corp, and Varian Associates Inc. Atari, for example, wants to trade its computers for Soviet-manufactured memory chips that are used in computers and many other electronic products. "It's a very interesting situation, and the timing appears to be perfect," Harris said. Opening new lines of trade is exactly the aim of the talks, he added, and "chances look pretty good" that will happen.

The two-week meeting in one of the centers of the U.S. high-technology industry begins on June 4, the last day of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's summit trip to the U.S. Gorbachev is expected to meet with leaders of major U.S. corporations during a June 3-4 stay in San Francisco, but will not attend the Silicon Summit himself.

Certain U.S. companies have forged early ties with the Soviets especially since the Bush administration lifted restrictions on sales of certain high-tech products to the Eastern Bloc. Seagate Technology Inc. reported receiving \$3 million worth of sales orders from East Bloc countries since licensing restrictions were modified in early May. "We...are in the advanced stages of negotiation with agencies in the Soviet Union," said Robert Martell, vice president of international sales and marketing for Seagate.

- Baltimore MD.

"CHEETAH" TO BE REVISED

A new version of Cheetah, ver. 3.0, soon to be released, will be sent to registered users first. Reportedly, it will fix the updating of pointers (some users reported HD Sentry uncovering problems caused by Cheetah not doing this right). It will also include support for BGM partitions, the option to de-fragment files during copy, switchable file over-write prompt, and an enhanced menu screen.

- Littleton, CO

MEGATALK BOARD FROM GADGETS

Joyful rumblings concerning the forthcoming MegaTalk board from Gadgets by Small say that this, the latest in a long line of fine, innovative products from GBS, will provide two serial ports which will operate at speeds up to 921,600 baud (yepers, it will hit 38,400 and 57,600, too). This beaut is due to create quite stir among the 'speed freaks' in the ST community.... I can't wait...:-)

- Sunnyvale, CA

STE EXPERIENCES YET ANOTHER DELAY!

Old Murphy's law has struck again... seems the one thousand or so machines that have recently arrived from the Orient have the wrong TOS in them...1.6 instead of 1.62. Rumor has it that they will be sent back to be retrofitted with the proper TOS OS before being released to the US Market. This one time, we congratulate Atari for doing the right thing by making sure the machine, when released in the States, has as much as possible going for it.

- Silver Spring, MD

STACY ENJOYS WARM WELCOME!

As it is beginning to arrive at various dealers throughout the USA, the Stacy is being enthusiastically welcomed by the entire Atari userbase and professional musicians. By all indications at this point in time, the STACY is destined to set some mighty strong sales records in the USA. The Stacy, only shipped with TOS 1.4, is perhaps the solution to many laptop dreams in both the Atari ST and the MAC userbase. For detailed and accurate information, a detailed review will appear in STR shortly. It appears that the Stacy is a stronger performer than the new MAC laptop when used with the GCR from Gadgets by Small.

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...Frank N. Stein

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